October 22, 2008

TO: ALL MUNICIPALITIES IN ONTARIO WITH A POPULATION OVER 50,000

RE: MOTION (3), KINGSTON CITY COUNCIL OCTOBER 21, 2008 – MINING ACT

I would confirm that at the regular meeting of Kingston City Council held on October 21, 2008, the following Motion (3), was approved:

(3) Moved by Councillor Matheson
   Seconded by Councillor Meers
   WHEREAS the City of Kingston passed a resolution that called upon the Province of Ontario to enact a moratorium on uranium mineral exploration and to petition the Province of Ontario to undertake an immediate and comprehensive public review of the mining act; and,
   WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has recently initiated a very short public consultation process that aims to secure public input prior to modernizing Ontario’s Mining Act; and,
   WHEREAS it is essential that the modernization of that Act will result in the rights and interests and the health of all citizens being protected, and in municipalities being able to regulate mining activities within their own jurisdictions; and,
   WHEREAS the consultation process of the Province directs the public to comment on five themes that do not lend themselves to the strengthening of the land use planning powers of municipalities so that they can execute their essential planning mandate in respect of controlling mineral exploration and development activities within their municipal boundaries so as to bring such activities into balance with other land uses and to protect the environment and the rights and interest, the health and investments of their citizens; and
   WHEREAS a coalition of knowledgeable persons, municipal officials, conservation authorities, community groups and environmental organizations have come together behind "three modest proposals" that experts have concluded would resolve the fundamental imbalances that exist between mining activities and other land uses and essential policies and priorities;

   THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Kingston: Endorses the Three Modest Proposals that were developed by the Coalition for Balanced Mining Act Reform, and petitions the Provincial Government of Ontario:
   1. to re-unite all provincially-owned mining rights with land that is privately owned and municipally taxed;
   2. to give all municipal governments: the ability to develop and enforce official plans including mineral land use designation; and thus the subsequent authority to zone lands so as to restrict the locations in which mining activities can be undertaken, in accordance with municipal needs; and
   3. to require the comprehensive public review of the impacts of proposed mineral exploration and mining activities before such activities be undertaken by anyone.

   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this motion be sent to the Premier’s Office of Ontario, to the Leaders of the opposition, the Honourable Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines, the Honourable John Gerretsen, local MPP, as well as all the Ontario municipalities with a population over 50,000, requesting a review of the antiquated mining act, as well as asking for a moratorium on uranium mining, and that this also be sent to AMO for support and endorsement.

   CARRIED

Yours truly,

Carolyn Downs
City Clerk

Cc: Councillor R. Matheson

Our File No.